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Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora of the
Northeastern United States and Adjacent
Canada, Vol. 2, page 515, Copyright 1952,
The New York Botanical Garden.

CEANOTHUS HERBACEUS* VAR *PUBESCENS **NEW JERSEY TEA**

New Jersey Tea is a highly branched shrub with stems up to 1 m high. The alternate, lance-shaped to narrowly elliptic leaves are 2-6 cm long and have serrated edges; they are glabrous on top but hairy beneath. Numerous white flowers are born in congested, rounded inflorescences that terminate the growing branches. Each flower is ca. 2-3 mm high with 5 calyx lobes and 5 petals that have a linear basal portion and a hood-shaped blade. There are 5 stamens and a 3-lobed ovary. The fruit is a glossy, brown, 3-lobed, globose capsule that is 3-5 mm wide. Flowering in June.

The combination of simple alternate leaves, hood-shaped petals, and 3-lobed fruit help identify this as *CEANOTHUS*. *C. HERBACEUS* can be distinguished from other members of the genus by its narrower leaves, which are less than 2 cm wide and not shiny on the upper surface.